



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**TODD COUNTY MAN INDICTED FOR METHAMPHETAMINE
AND FIREARMS OFFENSES**

– Joint Investigation by Todd County Sheriff's Office and ATF

BOWLING GREEN, KY - A federal grand jury in Bowling Green returned an indictment on August 8, 2007, against **Nicholas Shumate**, age 28, of Elkton, Kentucky, in Todd County, on charges of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state, local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The Indictment alleges that on April 27, 2007, in Todd County in the Western District of Kentucky, Shumate knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute (less than 50 grams) of methamphetamine, possessed a firearm, a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and possessed the same firearm after having been previously convicted in Todd Circuit Court, Elkton, Kentucky, of possession of a controlled

substance in the first degree, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

The street value of methamphetamine is approximately \$100 per gram.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$2,500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least six years. If convicted of the charge of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, there is a mandatory minimum sentence of five years to be served consecutively to any other sentence received.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Fentress. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Todd County Sheriff's Office, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Shumate is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on August 22, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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